

# Blind Pension

## What does this program do?

Funds the Blind Pension and the Supplemental Aid to the Blind programs

## What is the statutory base?

State: RSMo 209, 208.020, 208.030

Federal: Section 1618 of the Social Security Act

## Is this a federally mandated program?

Supplemental Aid to the Blind is mandated.

## What is the funding?

Fiscal Year	General Revenue	Federal	Other	Total
2001	\$0	\$0	\$16.1 mil	\$16.1 mil*
2002	\$0	\$0	\$17.6 mil	\$17.6 mil*
2003	\$0	\$0	\$18.8 mil	\$18.8 mil*
2004	\$0	\$0	\$20.6 mil	\$20.6 mil

\*Includes supplemental appropriation

## What are the sources of the non-general revenue funds?

Property tax of 0.3% on each \$100 valuation of assessed taxable property.

## Who is eligible?

### Blind Pension:

- 18 years or older, of good moral character, living in the state and blind as defined by RSMo 209.040
- Has not given away, sold or transferred real or personal property in order to be eligible for Blind Pension
- Is single, or married and living with spouse, and does not own real or personal property worth more than \$20,000 (In determining the value of real or personal property, the real estate occupied by the blind person or spouse as the home shall be excluded)
- Has no sighted spouse living in Missouri who can provide support
- Is found ineligible for Supplemental Aid to the Blind

- Is willing to have medical treatment or an operation to cure the blindness unless he/she is 75 years of age or older
- Is not a resident of a public, private or endowed institution except public mental institution
- Is found ineligible to receive federal supplemental income benefits

### Supplemental Aid to the Blind:

- 18 years of age or older, living in the state, blind as defined by RSMo 209.040 and in need of assistance because there is insufficient income to meet basic needs
- Single and does not own real or personal property worth more than \$2,000 or, if married and living with spouse, does not own real or personal property worth more than \$4,000 individually or together (Note: In figuring the value of property the following is not considered: the home in which the blind person lives, clothing, furniture, household equipment, personal jewelry or any property used directly by the blind person in earning a living.)
- Does not have parents living in Missouri or a sighted spouse who can provide support
- Does not publicly solicit alms
- Is not a resident of a public, private or endowed institution except a public medical institution
- Is required to apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

## What is the maximum grant?

### **For Blind Pension**

\$470 per month is the maximum. People who receive Blind Pension also receive Medicaid.

### **For Supplemental Aid to the Blind**

\$470 per month. The average grant is \$357.79 per month. People who receive Supplemental Aid to Blind also receive Medicaid.

## What is the average monthly caseload?

	SFY-2001	SFY-2002	SFY-2003
<b>Blind Pension</b>	2,609	2,681	2,741
<b>Supplemental Aid to the Blind</b>	780	807	833